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13 July 1965

AGREEMENT FOR REORGANIZATION OF THE
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM

A. The National Reconnaissance Program

1. The National Reconnaissance Program is a single program, national in character, to be developed and maintained through a cooperative endeavor on the part of all agencies of the Government concerned. The potentialities of U. S. technology must be aggressively and imaginatively exploited to develop systems for the collection of intelligence which are fully responsive to national intelligence needs and objectives.

The National Reconnaissance Program shall be responsive directly and solely to the intelligence collection requirements and priorities established by the United States Intelligence Board. Scheduling

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and targeting of satellite and manned aircraft missions over denied areas shall continue to be the responsibility of USIB, subject to the operational approval of the 303 Committee.

B. NRP Executive Committee

3. An NRP Executive Committee, consisting of the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence, is hereby established to formulate, guide and regulate the NRP. The Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology will serve on this Committee for matters affecting research and development problems. The NRP Executive Committee shall:

- a. Establish an appropriate level of effort for the NRP in response to reconnaissance requirements provided by USIB and in the light of technical capabilities and fiscal limitations.
- b. Approve or modify the consolidated National Reconnaissance Program and its budget.
- c. Approve the allocation of responsibility and the corresponding funds for research and preliminary design studies for new systems to CIA and/or DOD.

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d. Allocate development responsibilities and the corresponding funds for specific reconnaissance programs to CIA, the individual military services, [redacted] in such a way as to take maximum advantage of their facilities, competence and experience to establish guidelines for mutual support where appropriate.

e. Assign operational responsibility for various types of manned overflight missions to CIA or DOD, subject to the concurrence of the 303 Committee.

f. Periodically review the essential features of the major program elements of the NRP.

4. The Executive Committee shall meet on the call of either the Deputy Secretary of Defense or the Director of Central Intelligence and at least every two weeks. All meetings will be attended by the DNRO and such staff advisors as the Deputy Secretary of Defense or the Director of Central Intelligence consider desirable.

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C. National Reconnaissance Office

5. To implement the NRP, a National Reconnaissance Office is hereby established within the DOD. The NRO will be responsible for the vital central management of the National Reconnaissance Program, the execution of which will be delegated on a jointly agreed basis to qualified elements of the Government. This office will manage, coordinate, and provide fiscal control of the participating elements of the NRP and their contributing activities. It will be a management organization working through delegated responsibility.

6. The Director of the NRO shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense and be responsive solely to the NRP Executive Committee. The DNRO shall:

a. Be kept fully and completely informed of all programs and activities undertaken as part of the NRP.

b. Subject to review by the Executive Committee, have authority to approve, modify, redirect or terminate all research and development programs in the NRP.

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c. Prepare a coordinated, comprehensive budget for all aspects of the National Reconnaissance Program.

d. Establish a fiscal control and accounting procedure to ensure that all funds expended in support of the National Reconnaissance Program are fully accounted for and appropriately utilized by the agencies concerned. The Budget shall, in particular, show separately those funds to be applied to research and exploratory development, advanced development, engineering development, and operational development. It shall show the portion of the funds that are assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency, and funds expended or obligated under the authority of the Director of Central Intelligence under Public Law 110 will be administered and accounted for by CIA.

e. Schedule the use of the space launching, tracking and recovery facilities.

f. Sit with the USIB for the matters affecting the NRP.

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7. The Deputy Director NRO shall be appointed by the DCI and shall be in the chain of command directly under the Director NRO and shall at all times be kept fully and currently informed as to all activities of the National Reconnaissance Program. The Deputy Director shall act for and exercise the powers of the Director, NRO during his absence or disability.

8. The NRO shall be jointly staffed by personnel from the CIA, the three military departments and other Government agencies. All NRO personnel will serve solely under the direction and supervision of the DNRO.

D. Satellite Reconnaissance Operations

9. To implement the DCI's responsibility for targeting and scheduling of satellite reconnaissance missions, the present Satellite Operations Center will become an integral function of the CIA. This Center will be responsible for selecting the orbit choice and camera programming for individual missions

and providing guidance for the on-orbit tasking of satellite vehicles. It will establish the desired launch schedule in response to USIB requirements and within the constraints imposed by vehicle availability.

10. The DOD shall be responsible for launching, tracking, command, and recovery of satellite reconnaissance systems, and will designate a single operational organization within the Air Force as the responsible agent for this function, which shall be responsive to the DNRO. Rocket boosters developed both by the Air Force and NASA will be used in the satellite launching program as appropriate. However, actual funding for and procurement of such boosters used in the NRP will be assigned to the Air Force,

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11. Satellite payloads for the program will be procured by the agencies responsible for their development and improvement. The components of these payloads will be accepted, assembled, tested, and programmed by the developing agency at suitable facilities

near the launching site. These payloads will then be provided to the launching organization as certified equipment ready for flight on the schedule established by the DNRO.

E. Covert Manned Overflight Operations

12. Covert manned overflights of denied areas will be the responsibility of the CIA. These missions will be planned and executed by CIA in response to USIB target coverage requirements with mission control in Washington, D. C. They will be flown with the approval of the 303 Committee which CIA will secure. The DNRO will be kept fully informed of such planning and operations. To meet the present requirements, CIA will continue to operate its current IDEALIST (U-2) and OXCART forces. Air Force support for these operations will continue to be provided under the terms of the bilateral CIA/AF agreements of _____

and _____.

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F. Overt Manned Overflight Operations

13. Overt manned overflights of denied territory or overt missions covering friendly territory will generally be executed by the DOD to meet established intelligence requirements and with the approval of the 303 Committee. The Joint Reconnaissance Center of the JCS will plan these missions in response to USIB and/or command targeting requirements. The JRC will keep the DNRO fully informed on all such mission planning and execution. To carry out these responsibilities, the JRC will take its existing assets, including SAC U-2's, the SR-71 units when available, and DRONE capabilities.

G. Security

14. The Director of Central Intelligence, in accordance with his statutory responsibilities for protection of intelligence sources and methods, shall be responsible for the over-all security policy of the NRP. The DNRO will be responsible for the coordination of security matters within the participating elements

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of the NRP. Release of public information shall be coordinated with the DCI. The CIA shall maintain a central record of all security clearances related to the NRP.

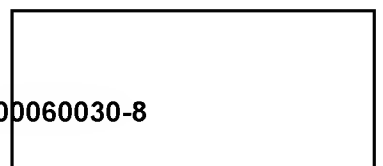
H. Initial NRP Assignment of Program Responsibilities

It is anticipated that the DNRO, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee will make and modify the assignments of primary responsibility for development and operation of specific reconnaissance. However, because this revision of the current NRO structure will probably take some time, it is desirable to make an initial assignment of program responsibilities under the NRP as an integral part of this agreement, and this is included in Appendix A.

Secretary of Defense

Director of Central Intelligence

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